REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-8 are new. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5, 968,118 to Sutton further in view U.S. Patent No. 6,889,385 to Rakib. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Sutton patent, the Rakib patent, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,862,451 to Grau. The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sutton patent and the Klein patent. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants' Figure 5 is an exemplary embodiment illustrating some of the features encompassed by Applicants' independent claims. Figure 5 illustrates a wideband distribution system 38, an addressable device 202, and a device 502. Device 502 includes, among other components, a combiner 410, a modulator 414, RF converter section 418, an RF splitter 214, first and second band pass filters 216 and 218, respectively, and a demodulator 228. Signals input to the device 502 from each of the addressable devices 202 are combined by the combiner 410, and are modulated by both the modulator 414 and the RF converter section 418. The signal modulated by the RF converter section 418 is output to the wideband distribution system 38.

Device 502 also receives signals from the wideband distribution system 38. The signals received by device 502 from the wideband distribution system 38 are split by the RF splitter 214. The incoming signal can be split into an IP portion, i.e.,

digital data portion, and a non-IP portion, e.g., digital or analog signal. The IP portion is feed to a second bandpass filter 218, the output of which is demodulated by demodulator 220. The demodulated signal is output from device 502 to one or more of the addressable devices 202.

The non-IP signal is filtered by first bandpass filter 216 and sent to a standard RF television or computer outlet 232.

The Sutton patent discloses an information outlet system having industrial set top functionality that takes advantage of the existence of previously installed coax cable (see Abstract and column 3, lines 10-12). As shown in Figure 2 of the Sutton patent, the information outlet 52 receives inputs from the various devices, e.g. a telephone, computer and video camera, and transmits the signals over coax cable 56 to the junction box 60. Page 5 of the final Office Action quotes column 5, lines 24-28 of the Sutton patent, which states "standard modulation electronics within the information outlet can be used to combine all of the signals on the existing coax 56..." without adding any additional details.

In contrast, Applicants' claim 1 recites "a combiner suitable for combining IP signal portions and the non-IP signal portions, and at least one modulator electrically connected to said combiner and suitable for modulating the signal output from the combiner into a modulated digital signal, and an RF converter section for further modulating the modulated digital signal to a set carrier channel."

The Sutton patent first modulates the signals input to the information outlet 52, and then combines the signals on the coax cable 52, which is the reverse process as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

The Sutton patent also does not disclose or suggest an RF converter section for further modulating the modulated digital signal to a set carrier channel as recited in independent claim 1.

The Rakib patent discloses a home network where multiple data streams are multiplexed and modulated onto a hybrid fiber coaxial cable 200 of a CATV system (see column 17, line 67-column 18, line 1 of the Rakib patent).

The Rakib patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Sutton patent. The Rakib patent does not disclose or suggest an RF converter section for further modulating the modulated digital signal to a set carrier channel as recited in independent claim 1.

In addition, both the Sutton patent and the Rakib patent disclose transmitting signals over a coax cable only, and do not disclose or suggest a wideband signal distribution system for distributing a plurality of non-IP, RF modulated signals over twisted pair conductors as recited in Applicants' independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Sutton patent nor the Rakib patent, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' independent claims 1.

Applicants' independent claim 7 recites a device comprising, among other features, a modulator for modulating the single serial data stream into a first modulated signal, and an RF converter for modulating the first modulated signal to a set carrier frequency for distribution. For at least the reasons argued above, neither the Sutton patent nor the Rakib patent, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' independent claims 7.

Applicants' claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sutton patent and the Klein patent.

Applicants' independent claim 2 recites a wideband signal distribution system including 568 standard wiring for distributing a plurality of RF modulated signals. On page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "coaxial cable is recognized as a cabling choice in the 568 wiring standard." However, Applicants' respectfully disagree that coaxial cable falls under the 568 wiring standard.

Applicants' independent claim 2 further recites "a demodulator electrically connected to an output of said RF splitter for demodulating the IP digital signal portion split by said RF splitter." Although the Sutton patent discloses modulating, it does not disclose or suggest a demodulator that is electrically connected to a spltter as recited in independent claim 2. The Examiner relies on the Klein patent to disclose demodulating different types of signals such as NTSC and PAL (see page 10 of the Office Action). However, the Klein patent at column 8, lines 1-9 does not disclose or suggest an intelligent device having an RF splitter suitable for splitting said modulated single frequency RF signal into an IP digital signal portion and a demodulator electrically connected to an output of said RF splitter for demodulating the IP digital signal as recited in independent claim 2.

Applicants' independent claim 5 recites features similar to independent claim 2. For instance, claim 5 recites "said at least one intelligent device including an RF splitter suitable for receiving and splitting said modulated single frequency RF signal into at least an IP signal portion and the non-IP RF modulated signal, and at least one demodulator electrically connected to said RF splitter and suitable for demodulating at least the IP signal portion split by said RF splitter;..."

Neither the Sutton patent nor the Klein patent, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' independent claims 2 and 5.

The Grau patent is directed to a channel quality management method and apparatus that allocates and controls data transmissions with a communications unit. The Grau patent does not overcome the deficiencies of the Sutton and Klein patents. Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Sutton patent, the Klein patent nor the Grau patent, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in Applicants' independent claims 2 and 5.

As for new claims 6-8, none of the applied prior art discloses or suggests all of the features recited in independent claim 6.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

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By: _____
Martin E. Miller
Registration No. 56,022

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620